

National Council for Soviet Jewry

of the United Kingdom and Ireland
College House
4a New College Parade
Finchley Road
London NW3 5EP
Tel: 01-586 5742/3



nb/jip

Mr. Hartley Booth,
Policy Department,
10, Downing Street,
London, SW1.

23rd March, 1987

Dear Mr. Booth,

Prisoners of Zion

I am pleased to inform you that since last Thursday's meeting with Mrs. Thatcher, three more Prisoners of Zion have been released. Remaining in captivity are: Iosif Berenshtein, Yuli Edelshtein and Alexei Magarik. All three were sentenced on fabricated criminal charges: Iosif Berenshtein for resisting arrest and Yuli Edelshtein and Alexei Magarik for illegal possession of drugs. All Prisoners of Zion sentenced for 'political offences' have therefore now been released.

Refuseniks

The primary objective of Soviet policy in harassing refuseniks has been on the one hand to discourage other Jews from applying for permission to emigrate and on the other to try to influence some of the refuseniks to change their minds. However, that harassment, appalling though it has been and still is, is not uniform. Individual exceptions to almost every general statement can be found. Few refuseniks are completely without employment, some have retained their professional position and cases of boys being barmitzvah and so on are known. For this reason it is important to concentrate on the refuseniks prime objective - permission to emigrate. We should judge any Soviet response to representations in terms of the numbers permitted to do so.

..2/

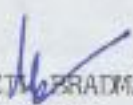
Patrons: His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, The Rt. Hon. Dr. David Owen MP, The Rt. Hon. Peter Archer QC MP, The Chief Rabbi Sir Immanuel Jakobovits, His Honour Judge Lachs, Professor Sir Stanley Peart FRS, Professor D. Brian Spalding, Edward Fox, Lord Chapple.

President: The President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews Dr. Lionel Kopelowitz J.P. Hon. Vice Presidents: Anish L. Handler, Andrew Baicombe, June Jacobs. Chairman: Neil Bradman, Vice Chairmen: Rita Eker, Cynthia Jacobs. Treasurers: B.A. Berman FCA, Jeffrey Pinnick FCA. Hon. Secretaries: Linda Isaacs, Sylvia Sheriff J.P. Hon. Solicitors: Victor Mishon & Co.

Distribution of Jews in the USSR

You will recall that Mrs. Thatcher asked about the distribution of Jews in the USSR. Two-thirds of the Jewish population is concentrated in four cities: Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev and Odessa. A table showing the distribution of the Jewish population by republic is enclosed. Incidentally, the desire of many refuseniks to pursue Jewish studies as well as their scientific careers is illustrated by the contents of The Journal of the Academic Proceedings of Soviet Jewry, a copy of which is enclosed. ||

Yours sincerely,


NEIL BRATMAN
Chairman

National Council for Soviet Jewry

of the United Kingdom and Ireland
College House
4a New College Parade
Finchley Road
London NW3 5EP
Tel: 01-586 5742/3



Background Information

DISTRIBUTION OF JEWS IN THE USSR ACCORDING TO REPUBLIC

Name of Republic	Republic Total (in thousands)	Percentage of total Jewish Population	Percentage of Republic population
RSFSR	701	38.7	0.5
UKRAINE	634	35.0	1.3
BYELORUSSIA	135	7.5	1.4
UZBEKISTAN	100	5.6	0.6
MOLDAVIA	80	4.5	2.0
AZERBAIDZHAN	35	1.9	0.6
GEORGIA	28	1.5	0.6
LATVIA	28	1.5	1.1
LITHUANIA	15	0.8	0.4
TADZHIKSTAN	15	0.8	0.4
ESTONIA	5	0.3	0.3
KAZAKHSTAN	35	1.9	
KIRGIZIA			
ARMENIA			
TURKMENIA			
Total	1,811		

Figures for 1979 All Union Census from 'Vestnik Statistiki, 1980, No.2 Moscow



10 DOWNING STREET

Neil Bradman Esq
Chairman
National Council for Soviet Jewry
of the United Kingdom and Ireland
College House
4a New College Parade
Finchley Road
LONDON NW3 5EP

24 March 1987

Neil Bradman

Thank you for your letter enclosing information
and a copy of the first issue of "Soviet
Jewry". This is most useful.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Hartley Booth

HARTLEY BOOTH